UNODC/HONEURO/11/L.1

22 June 2015

Original: English*

Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
Brussels, 22-25 June 2015

Draft report

Rapporteur: Marián Geleta (Slovakia)

Organization of the Meeting

A. Opening and duration of the Meeting

1. The Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe, was held in Brussels, from 22 to 25 June 2015. The inaugural ceremony was held on 22 June 2015 and addressed by H.E. Koen Geens, Minister of Justice of the Kingdom of Belgium. The Secretary read out opening remarks on behalf of the Executive Director of UNODC. The elected Chairperson of the Eleventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, Peter De Buysscher (Belgium) also addressed the meeting.

B. Attendance

2. The following States members of HONLEA, Europe, were represented: [...].

3. The [...] were represented by observers.

4. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime served as the secretariat of the Meeting.

* Available only in English, French, Russian and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

V.15-04533 (E)

Please recycle

C. Election of officers

5. At its 1st meeting, on 22 June 2015, the Eleventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, elected the following officers:

Chairperson:	Peter de Buysscher (Belgium)
First Vice-Chairman:	Miguel Ángel Alonso Rodriguez (Spain)
Second Vice-Chairman:	Jaakko Sonck (Finland)
Rapporteur:	Marián Geleta (Slovakia)

D. Adoption of the agenda

6. Also at its 1st meeting, the Eleventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, adopted the following agenda:

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation.
4. Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
5. Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016.
6. Consideration of topics by working groups:
   (a) Airport Communication Project;
   (b) Container Control Programme;
   (c) Handling synthetic drug production and responding to changing trends in drug use, new psychoactive substances and precursors;
   (d) Measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows.
7. Organization of the Twelfth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.
8. Other business.
9. Adoption of the report of the Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe.

E. Documentation

7. The documents before the Eleventh Meeting of HONLEA, Europe, are listed in the annex.

23 June 2015

Original: English*

Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
Brussels, 22-25 June 2015

Draft report

Rapporteur: Marián Geleta (Slovakia)

Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation

1. At its 1st and 2nd meeting, held on 22 June, the Meeting considered item 3 of the agenda, entitled "Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation". For its consideration of the item, the Meeting had before it two reports prepared by the Secretariat, entitled "Statistical analysis of drug trafficking trends in Europe and worldwide" (UNODC/HONEURO/11/2) and "Current situation with respect to regional and subregional cooperation in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe" (UNODC/HONEURO/11/3). In addition, country reports on the illicit drug trafficking situation were submitted by Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Romania, Slovakia, Spain, Switzerland, the Russian Federation and Turkey (UNODC/HONEURO/11/CRP.1-22).

2. Representatives of the Secretariat introduced the item. An audiovisual presentation provided an overview of illicit drug trafficking trends across the region and worldwide. Another presentation informed about the support provided by UNODC through its Regional Programme for South-Eastern Europe and about UNODC initiatives in Eastern Europe. A presentation on the national approach to the world drug problem was made by the representative of Belgium.

3. The Meeting discussed current drug trafficking trends in Europe and approaches to countering them, with reference to particular cases and important seizures made. The involvement of organized criminal groups in drug trafficking was also discussed.

* Available only in English, French, Russian and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

V.15-04538 (E)

Please recycle

4. Reference was made to seizures of heroin, cocaine, amphetamine and methamphetamine. One delegation referred to trafficking in buprenorphine. Information was shared on the continued use of the Balkan route for heroin trafficking from Afghanistan. Concern was expressed about the increased use of the Southern route, a situation which was calling for additional capacity-guiding efforts for African countries. The gap of information regarding the use of the Northern route was also mentioned. The challenges caused by cocaine trafficking via Western Africa and the Mediterranean from Latin America were also discussed.

5. Many countries indicated increased seizures in cannabis, which remained the most commonly spread substance on the market. Concern was raised by several delegations about the increased level of THC in cannabis products, due to genetically modified seeds. The Meeting discussed the increase in indoor and domestic production sites for cannabis, often managed by foreign nationals.

6. Participants discussed emerging challenges, in particular the steep rise of new psychoactive substances as well as the use of the Internet and of the postal service and international courier services for drug trafficking purposes. With regard to new psychoactive substances, a number of delegations referred to the need for immediate reaction even before these substances are scheduled under national or international law. Some participants reported on newly enacted legislation in this regard. Delegations discussed new channels of distribution of new psychoactive substances and the challenges encountered in developing effective detecting techniques. The challenges created by the use of the Internet and increasingly sophisticated forms of payment transactions required adequate responses. Reference was also made to the fact that new psychoactive substances also created challenges in testing drug use among drivers.

7. Several delegations stressed the importance of a balanced approach in order to effectively address the world drug problem, covering demand reduction, supply reduction and international cooperation. The need for a common and shared responsibility involving countries of origin, countries of transit and countries of destination was also stressed. Reference was made to the need to involve various governmental stakeholders, including law enforcement and customs, financial authorities and data collection agencies.

8. Several delegations emphasized the importance of involving non-governmental organizations and civil society, including the youth, in particular with regard to prevention and awareness-raising activities, thereby also drawing on the opportunities offered by social media. The importance of effective public-private partnerships as well as of cooperation initiatives with organizations such as UNODC, EU and other regional organizations was also stressed.

23 June 2015

Original: English*

Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
Brussels, 22-25 June 2015

Draft report

Rapporteur: Marián Geleta (Slovakia)

Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe

1. At its 2nd meeting, held on 22 June 2015, the Meeting considered item 4 of the agenda, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations adopted by the Tenth Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe". The Meeting had before it a document prepared by the Secretariat (UNODC/HONEURO/11/4) on the basis of information provided by Governments in response to a questionnaire sent to all States participating in the Meeting of HONLEA, Europe. The document reflected the replies received as at 24 April 2015 from governments of Armenia, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Greece, Finland, Georgia, Hungary, Israel, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Romania, Russian Federation, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. After that date, responses to the questionnaire had been received from Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Poland, Slovakia and Turkey, which the Secretariat, due to the late submission, had not been able to reflect in the report.

2. Upon invitation by the Chair, the representatives of France, Italy, Slovakia and Turkey orally informed the meeting on the status of implementation of the recommendations adopted at the 10th HONLEA Europe meeting.

3. With regard to the implementation of the recommendations concerning demand reduction related measures, several delegations informed the meeting on the existence of alternative measures to incarceration for consumption-related drug

* Available only in English, French, Russian and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

V.15-04542 (E)

Please recycle

offences. Information was also provided on training activities for officers and health workers working in prisons with drug users.

4. With regard to the implementation of the recommendations concerning new psychoactive substances, the meeting was informed of various national strategies aiming to detect and identify NPS, also through monitoring of Internet sites used to sell such substances. The meeting also discussed the relevance of Early Warning Systems and of the exchange of real-time information. The meeting was informed about emergency scheduling measures in place in a number of countries. The need for quick responses and for effective regional cross-border cooperation was highlighted. Participants discussed that while the use of modern technology for drug trafficking caused new challenges, at the same time social media provided opportunities in terms of prevention and awareness-raising, reaching in particularly also young people.

5. With regard to the implementation of the recommendations concerning the countering of the use of containers for drug trafficking purposes, information was provided on ongoing investigation techniques, as well as on trainings provided to officers working in ports.

23 June 2015

Original: English*

Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
Brussels, 22-25 June 2015

Draft report

Rapporteur: Marián Geleta (Slovakia)

Follow-up to the Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016

1. At its 2nd meeting, held on 22 June 2015, the Meeting discussed item 5 entitled "Follow-up to the Political Declaration ad Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, in preparation for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem to be held in 2016". For its consideration of the item, the meeting had available to it the 2009 Political Declaration and Plan of Action on International Cooperation towards an Integrated and Balanced Strategy to Counter the World Drug Problem, as well as the Joint Ministerial Statement adopted at the 2014 high-level review by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs of the implementation by Member States of the Political Declaration and Plan of Action. The Secretariat introduced the item. H.E. Ambassador Khaled Shamaa, Chair of the Board tasked by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs with the preparations for the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem, to be held in 2016, addressed the meeting via video-message.

2. Participants mentioned a number of issues to be dealt with in the context of UNGASS preparations including: the need for a scientific evidence-based approach; the strengthening of the principle of common and shared responsibility, involving countries of production, transit and consumption; the respect for the international

* Available only in English, French, Russian and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

V.15-04546 (E)

Please recycle

drug control conventions; as well as the respect for human rights. The importance of a multidisciplinary drug policy, which included prevention, treatment and rehabilitation efforts in balance with supply reduction measures was also highlighted.

3. Several delegations stressed the importance of effective international and regional cooperation, and made reference to specific projects such as the Paris Pact initiative.

4. The need to further enhance efforts in addressing organized criminal groups involved in drug trafficking was emphasized, in particular the need to concentrate on depriving them of their financial resources, through asset tracing and confiscation. Reference was thereby made to new legislative action taken by several countries, including non-conviction based asset recovery and sharing of confiscated assets among concerned states.

5. Pursuant to Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution 56/10, the Chair proposed to follow what was done at the 10th HONLEA meeting and to complement the recommendations stemming from the working groups with some preambular paragraphs, placing these recommendations in the context of ongoing UNGASS preparations led by the Commission.

23 June 2015

Original: English*

Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
Brussels, 22-25 June 2015

Draft report

Rapporteur: Marián Geleta (Slovakia)

Consideration of topics by working groups

Issue (a): Airport Communication Project

1. The working group held one meeting on 23 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Airports are important gateways that offer valuable opportunities to identify those persons engaged in cross-border illicit drug trafficking, cash couriering and related organized crime offences;

(b) Trafficking organizations exploit the weakened law enforcement response in airports of countries where instability, poor security and corruption have an adverse influence on their operations;

(c) In working with selected international airports in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to enhance inter-service coordination, professionalism and the provision of specialist training on profiling, questioning and inspection methods, the Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) is making a needed contribution to building capacities and professional networks.

2. The working group reached the following conclusions:

(a) The European Commission funded initiative AIRCOP has proved to be successful in the beneficiary countries where it operates through improving national inter-service cooperation, raising professional skills of law enforcement authorities and assisting to make vulnerable countries less attractive to drug trafficking organizations;

* Available only in English, French, Russian and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

V.15-04569 (E)

Please recycle

(b) Better equipped and trained law enforcement personnel at international airports having the necessary means to communicate key information to counterparts in other locations on in- and outbound flights is a major step toward combating illicit drug trafficking by air;

(c) It is important for the authorities, which are undertaking risk assessment, targeting and profiling passengers, and looking for those persons engaged in illicit drug trafficking, to have a close and cooperative relationship with the private sector operators (such as airlines and airport authorities) to benefit from ready access to advanced passenger and commercial information.

3. The working group made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to continue their financial and technical support to the UNODC Airport Communication Project (AIRCOP) so as to support the establishment of new operational Joint Airport Interdiction Taskforce (JAITF) units and the ongoing professional development of established operations;

(b) Where they have not already done so, Governments should be encouraging their airport-based law enforcement agencies to open a dialogue with the Joint Airport Interdiction Task Force units formed under the AIRCOP initiative, to commence information sharing and to build professional networks that will in turn support more effective operational responses against trafficking;

(c) Governments are encouraged to support initiatives that facilitate close operational cooperation in information sharing (such as Advanced Passenger Information API, Passenger Name Record PNR, Advanced Cargo Information ACI), in accordance with privacy requirements between authorities, to enable effective and timely risk assessment of passengers and airfreight.

UNODC/HONEURO/11/L.1/Add.5

23 June 2015

Original: English*

Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
Brussels, 22-25 June 2015

Draft report

Rapporteur: Marián Geleta (Slovakia)

Consideration of topics by working groups

Issue (b): Container Control Programme

1. The working group held one meeting on 23 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Sea containers remain an important transport vector for trafficking organizations in the movement of bulk shipments of illicit drugs;

(b) The quantity of cocaine transported in sea containers, intercepted by authorities, is increasing;

(c) It is crucial that law enforcement authorities that are screening freight in the context of the international supply chain establish close networking connections with one another to encourage confidence-building and the sharing of information about those involved in illicit drug trafficking.

2. The working group reached the following conclusions:

(a) The targeting and profiling of sea containers is more effective when there is an established platform for information-sharing between border control agencies, as well as close coordination in their operational responses;

(b) Additional efforts are needed to ensure that interception by border control authorities of illicit drugs transported in containers is effectively followed through with an investigation into those responsible for this trafficking;

* Available only in English, French, Russian and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

V.15-04577 (E)

Please recycle

(c) The UNODC/WCO Container Control Programme is contributing significantly to building essential capacities within border agencies to efficiently address illicit drug trafficking in sea containers and as such, should continue to be supported through the provision of financial support by donors to UNODC and the provision of substantive and technical expertise by Member States to enable the establishment of new operational units and the further professional development of the established operations.

3. The working group made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should encourage their drug law enforcement authorities to work closer with drug source countries and transit States through capacity-building programmes such as the UNODC/WCO container control programme;

(b) Governments should be encouraged to assist other countries in investigating drug seizures made in containerized freight destined for Europe, so as to secure the conviction of those who organized these shipments as well as the dismantlement of the organized crime networks who profit from their operation;

(c) Governments should be encouraged to support source countries with law enforcement experts to improve the technical skills and professional knowledge of their border law enforcement agencies to assess the threat and to design appropriate measures to counter organized crime groups involved in illicit drug trafficking through their territories.

UNODC/HONEURO/11/L.1/Add.6

23 June 2015

Original: English*

Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
Brussels, 22-25 June 2015

Draft report

Rapporteur: Marián Geleta (Slovakia)

Consideration of topics by working groups

Issue (c): Handling synthetic drug production and responding to changing trends in drug use, new psychoactive substances and precursors

1. The working group held one meeting on 23 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) The terrain of the synthetic drug use has changed dramatically with the arrival of NPS or so-called legal highs which, while not internationally controlled substances, mimic their effects. Among NPS there are substances that create similar effects as cannabis (synthetic cannabinoids), stimulants (synthetic cathinones and piperazines), hallucinogens (phenethylamines, tryptamines) and heroin (new fentanyls);

(b) Increasing quantities of NPS are being seized in Europe, with synthetic cannabinoids accounting for the majority of new substances reported;

(c) The Internet is an important medium promoting the sale and use of NPS.

2. The working group reached the following conclusions:

(a) Most users of NPS want to buy the "effect" and not specific substances, and do not necessarily know or care about the chemical composition of the drugs they consume;

(b) Interpreting current trends in NPS use and their expansion is difficult as they rarely show up in general population surveys and only to a limited extent in youth surveys;

* Available only in English, French, Russian and Spanish, which are the working languages of the subsidiary body.

V.15-04581 (E)

Please recycle

(c) Even when NPS manufacture takes place outside Europe, the important part of packaging, labelling, customizing and promoting its use takes place in the region. Therefore there is a need for a collective response and acceptance of shared responsibility to act collectively in countering NPS.

3. The working group made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments are encouraged to urgently address the legal status of NPS, which are also marketed as "legal highs" so as to remove ambiguity in the minds of consumers;

(b) Governments are encouraged to take steps to improve the knowledge of their law enforcement authorities about the manufacture and supply of NPS, including the involvement of organized criminal groups in their trafficking and distribution;

(c) Given the important role the Internet plays in promoting the sale of NPS, as well as the use of the international post and courier systems to deliver the NPS, Governments are encouraged to support their law enforcement agencies establish close working partnerships with the concerned services in the development of new and effective strategies to successfully intercept NPS.

UNODC/HONEURO/11/L.1/Add.7

Distr.: Limited
25 June 2015

English only

Eleventh Meeting of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Europe
Brussels, 22-25 June 2015

Draft report

Rapporteur: Marián Geleta (Slovakia)

Consideration of topics by working groups

Issue (d): Measures to counter money-laundering and illicit financial flows

1. The working group held one meeting on 25 June. In its consideration of the topic under review, the working group made the following observations:

(a) Addressing money-laundering and recovering the proceeds of crime is intrinsically linked to combating illicit drug trafficking;

(b) Many financial intelligence units act as a filter of information provided by the private financial sector, by screening declarations from these institutions with the purpose to identify transactions that may indicate an illicit transaction that warrants further investigation;

(c) UNODC offers a capacity-building programme to support national authorities in developing the skills to identify suspicious financial transactions and initiate investigations into their origin;

(d) Authorities need to continue to pay attention to the detection of cash in transit across their borders.

2. The working group reached the following conclusions:

(a) The innovative attempts used by financial intelligence units to circumvent anti-money-laundering regulations, such as trade based money-laundering and compensation mechanisms, demonstrate new challenges in countering drug trafficking;

(b) Cooperation between law enforcement agencies through the early sharing of information about investigations of trafficking suspects, is essential if a money-laundering investigation is to successfully recover the proceeds of crime.

V.15-04617 (E)

Please recycle

3. The working group made the following recommendations:

(a) Governments should encourage their drug law enforcement agencies to share information with their national Financial Intelligence Units at the early stage of investigations;

(b) Governments are encouraged to establish interagency joint investigation teams to investigate the laundering of proceeds of drug trafficking;

(c) Governments are encouraged to support UNODC in the implementation of capacity-building to combat money-laundering and illicit financial flows stemming from drug trafficking.